

HB 3375 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes goal of planning for development of three gigawatts of commercial scale floating offshore wind energy projects within federal waters off Oregon Coast by 2030. Establishes Task Force on Floating Offshore Wind Energy consisting of at least 11 members from the Legislative Assembly, state agencies and others by appointment. Requires task force to develop floating offshore wind development strategic plan that: 1) examine the potential for floating offshore wind energy development in federal waters off the Oregon coast; 2) evaluate actions necessary to promote development of floating offshore wind energy; 3) recommend a comprehensive and efficient state and federal permitting timeline for development of floating offshore wind energy projects in federal waters off the Oregon coast; 4) include a progressively adaptive management and development approach to meeting goals; 5) identify measures for minimizing conflicts with existing ocean users in areas of federal waters off the Oregon coast that are leased for the development of floating offshore wind energy; 6) identify mechanisms, measures, and other opportunities for the development of floating offshore wind energy to provide net benefits to existing ocean users; 7) include a full evaluation of the impacts of floating offshore wind energy on the coastal, state, and regional electricity transmission grid; 8) identify or recommend local or state initiatives designed to maximize the benefits to the people of this state of developing floating offshore wind energy; 9) evaluate options for integrating the development of floating offshore wind energy with Oregon's ports and evaluate the potential economic, ecological, workforce, and functionality impacts on Oregon's ports related to the development of floating offshore wind energy; 10) be the result of and promote regular, collaborative engagement with other Pacific coast states, tribal nations, and provinces with relation to the development of floating off-shore wind energy; and 11) assess the opportunities and challenges of developing floating offshore wind energy in federal waters off the Oregon coast. Requires task force to solicit input from representatives of relevant local, regional, and federal entities and submit plan to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to energy no later than September 15, 2022. Sunsets taskforce work and plan submission on December 31, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires federal planning or permitting process for offshore energy research and development in federal waters off the Oregon coast and for any related transmission and other facilities, particularly those that transverse Oregon's territorial sea, to adequately consider the prompt decommissioning of any offshore facility after permanent cessation of use of the facility. Requires federal planning or permitting process to consider the removal or decommissioning of anchors, cables, and any other equipment related to the facility in a manner that will serve to avoid future conflicts between the equipment and fishing operations conducted by persons who hold licenses issued pursuant to the commercial fishing laws. Requires State Department of Energy (ODOE) to 1) conduct a literature review on the benefits and challenges of integrating up to three gigawatts of floating offshore wind energy into Oregon's electric grid by 2030; 2) gather input and consult with other interested or appropriate state, regional, and national entities on the effects of integrating up to three gigawatts of floating offshore wind energy on reliability, state renewable energy goals, jobs, equity, and resilience; and 3) hold no less than two public

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remote meetings with interested stakeholders to provide a summary of the literature review and consultation required by this section and to gather feedback from stakeholders on the benefits and challenges of integrating up to three gigawatts of floating offshore wind energy into Oregon's electric grid. Requires ODOE to provide a summary of the key findings from literature review and consultation, including opportunities for future study and engagement, in a report to the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022. Sunsets literature review and report requirements on January 2, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

Wind energy is a rapidly growing source of renewable energy in the United States. Offshore wind projects have the potential to expand the United States' amount of wind power available and provide states with economic opportunities. Only Rhode Island has an operating offshore wind installation, but more than 25 gigawatts of offshore wind projects are currently being developed in the country. Oregon's wind energy industry has developed mainly in the central and eastern end of the Columbia River and in northeastern Oregon. Developments have been proposed in other areas with good potential wind resources, including the Cascades, along the Oregon coast, and in southeastern Oregon.

House Bill 3375 would establish Task Force on Floating Offshore Wind Energy consisting of at least 11 members from the Legislative Assembly, state agencies, and others by appointment. The measure would require task force to solicit input from representatives of relevant local, regional, and federal entities and submit plan to Legislative Assembly related to energy no later than September 15, 2022. House Bill 3375 would sunset the taskforce work and plan submission requirement on December 31, 2022.